

From: Cathal Stockdale
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 10:47am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear sir/maddam,

I am writing to you to complain about / disagree with the current settlement in the Microsoft anti trust case. Even though I am Irish citizen, I have spent 3 or 4 monts in NY and enjoyed the country a lot, I feel this issue is important enough that it crosses international boundries, and will also express my opinions with the EU courts when the time comes.

The current settlement does not really punish Microsoft in anyway, according to Civil Law you cannot benefit from crome yet Microsoft have been found guilty of violating competition laws and yet have continued to spread its monopoly, as in the recent failed Settlement of the Civil suits in Calafornia (where they supply Microsoft products to schools for free for a few years), and of course being forced to use Internet Explorer (from now on IE). As a personal preference I always use Netscape at home, but when I was in college and at any 'public access' computer (as in Libraries etc.) I had to choice but to use IE as it was the default browser given with the Windows operation system. While many people might have bought IE as their browser given the choice, most people weren't.

I know that is hard to try find a 'fair' settlement against Microsoft, but it would seem 'fair' to me if Microsoft had to pay financial damages to the other companies that their monopoly damaged (but then what about the companies that went bankrupt due to the Monopoly?) and/or forced release of their applications code. I have heard a suggestion of the release of code already with all security code being withheld, the main problem with this is that if Microsoft is allowed to decide what is security related everything will be marked in that way.

In conclusion, as a young computer professional I would hope that any settlement reached would open up the Operating System market, the software market and give a wider choice of what the end user wants his/her applications to be.

Your Sincerely
Cathal Stockdale

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